

REMARKS

In the above captioned application, on June 21, 2002, the Examiner issued a Final Office Action with respect to the thirty-eight previously pending claims. On August 6, 2002, Applicants filed a Response to the Final Office Action, in which Applicants canceled certain claims, amended other claims and added new claims. On August 27, 2002, the Examiner issued an Advisory Action, in which he rejected all previously pending claims and refused to enter the new claims.

Applicants take no position at this time as to whether the previous rejections or the refusal to enter the new claims were proper. However, in order to re-open and to further prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1 - 38 without prejudice and added new claims 39 -54. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims at a later time.

The new claims are directed to polymer matrices and methods for making polymer matrices that use inorganic pigmentary bases that are treated with the compounds of the specified formula and are combined with polymers that are suitable for plastics applications. Each of these claims is supported by the Specification.

New claim 39 is a new independent claim that is directed to a polymer matrix wherein the polymer is suitable for plastics applications and the pigment comprises an inorganic pigmentary base that has been treated with a compound of the specified formula. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found in the originally filed claim 3, as well as on page 3, line 22, page 4, lines 7-8, page 4, line 24 - page 5, line 6, and page 7, lines 19 -30 of the Specification.

New claim 40 depends on claim 39 and is directed to a polymer matrix wherein the inorganic pigmentary base is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, kaolin, talc,

mica and calcium carbonate. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 4, lines 7-9 of the Specification.

New claim 41 depends on claim 39 and is directed to a polymer matrix in which the organo-acid phosphate compound is present in an amount from about 0.01 to about 5 percent by weight based on the weight of the pigmentary base. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 5, lines 19 -20 of the Specification.

New claim 42 depends on claim 41 and is directed to a polymer matrix in which the amount of the pigment is from about 50 percent to about 85 percent by weight of the polymer matrix based on the weight of the polymer matrix. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 8, lines 1-5 of the Specification.

New claim 43 depends on claim 39 and is directed to a polymer matrix wherein the polymer is polyethylene. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 7, lines 23- 25 of the Specification.

New claim 44 depends on claim 43 and is directed to a polymer matrix wherein the pigmentary base is titanium dioxide. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 4, lines 9 - 10 of the Specification.

New claim 45 is a new independent claim as is directed to a method for preparing a polymer matrix in which one combines an inorganic pigmentary base with an organo-acid phosphate to form a pigment. The pigment is in turn combined with a polymer that is suitable for plastics applications. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found in originally filed claim 35, as well as on page 3, line 22, page 4 lines 7-8, page 4, line 24 - page 5, line 6, and page 7, lines 19 -30 of the Specification.

New claim 46 depends on claim 45 and is directed to a method for forming the polymer matrix wherein the polymer is polyethylene. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 7, lines 23- 25 of the Specification.

New claim 47 depends on claim 46 and is directed to a method in which the pigmentary base is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, kaolin, talc, mica and calcium carbonate. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 4, lines 7-9 of the Specification.

New claim 48 depends on claim 47 and is directed to a method in which the pigmentary base is titanium dioxide. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 4, lines 9 - 10 of the Specification.

New claim 49 depends on claim 48 and is directed to a method in which the organo-acid phosphate compound is present in an amount from about 0.01 percent to about 5 percent by weight based on the weight of the pigmentary base. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 5, lines 19 -20 of the Specification.

New claim 50 depends on claim 49 and is directed to a method in which the amount of the pigment is from about 50 percent to about 85 percent by weight based on the weight of the polymer matrix. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 8, lines 1-5 of the Specification.

New claim 51 depends on claim 39 and is directed to a polymer matrix in which within the organo-acid phosphate, the R group is selected from the group consisting of hexyl-, octyl- and ethylhexyl-. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 5, lines 4 -6 of the Specification.

New claim 52 depends on claim 49 and is directed to a method for preparing a polymer matrix in which within the organo-acid phosphate, the R group is selected from the group consisting of hexyl-, octyl- and ethylhexyl-. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 5, lines 4 -6 of the Specification.

New claim 53 is an independent claim that is directed to a polymer matrix and contains certain limitations of new claim 35, 41, 42, as well as specifies that the inorganic pigmentary base is titanium dioxide. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found in originally filed claim 3, and on page 5, lines 19 -20, page 8, lines 1-5 and page 4, lines 9 - 10 of the Specification.

New claim 54 depends on new claim 53 and specifies that the polymer is polyethylene. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 7, lines 23- 25 of the Specification.

New claim 55 depends on new claim 53 and specifies that the amount of pigment is from about 50 percent to about 85 percent by weight based on the weight of the polymer matrix. Support for this new claim may, for example, be found on page 8, lines 1-5 of the Specification.

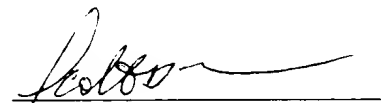
Because previously pending claims 1 -38 have been withdrawn, Applicants do not respond herein to the rejections to those claims, but reserve the right to respond to them at later time.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that because each of the new claims is directed to a polymer matrix in which an inorganic pigmentary base has been treated with the compound of the specified formula and combined with a polymer suitable for plastics applications, and none of the art of record teaches, discloses or otherwise suggests, either alone or in combination, the present invention as embodied in these claims, the claims are in condition for allowance.

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Because this response is timely, Applicants submit that no fee is due. If any fee is required, the United Patent & Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge deposit account number 11-071 for such sum.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott D. Locke", is written over a horizontal line.

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